



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY - REGION 9

FACT SHEET

**FINAL APPROVAL OF THE
PM-10 PLAN FOR THE
METROPOLITAN PHOENIX AREA**

January 10, 2002

Today's Action

- We are announcing the approval of Arizona's plan for attaining the long-term (annual) and short-term (24-hour) national health-based air quality standards for particulate matter (PM-10) in the metropolitan Phoenix area. As required by the Clean Air Act (CAA), the plan includes the best available control measures for reducing PM-10 and demonstrates that the PM-10 air quality standards will be met as expeditiously as practicable.
- We are also granting a 5-year extension of the attainment date for the both the 24-hour and annual PM-10 standards from December 31, 2001 to December 31, 2006. We are granting this extension based on Arizona's showing that attainment by 2001 was not possible despite the implementation of the best available control measures.

Control Measures in the Metropolitan Phoenix Area Plan

- High PM-10 levels in the metropolitan Phoenix area are caused by fugitive dust from paved roads, construction sites, and unpaved roads and windblown dust from agricultural fields, disturbed areas on construction sites and vacant lots.
- Arizona's plan includes a comprehensive control strategy for reducing PM-10 from these sources. Highlights of the plan include:
 - Commitments by Maricopa County to improve and greatly increase resources for its compliance and enforcement program for fugitive dust sources such as construction sites.
 - A best management practices rule to reduce fugitive dust from agricultural sources.

- The use of \$16.5 million over 5 years of federal congestion mitigation/air quality funds to purchase PM-10 efficient street sweepers and pave unpaved roads.
- Under the plan, all significant sources of fugitive dust, such as construction sites, road building activities, agricultural fields, unpaved parking lots and roads, disturbed vacant lots, and paved roads will be controlled through the use of stabilization techniques such as paving, gravel, dust suppressants, watering, and cleaning.

Background: Particulate Matter's Impact on Public Health

- The Phoenix metropolitan area experiences particulate levels above both the annual and 24-hour national ambient air quality standards for PM-10. These standards are 50 micrograms per cubic meter on an annual basis and 150 micrograms per cubic meter on a 24-hour basis.
- Particulate matter is very small solid or liquid material. Particles smaller than 10 micrometers in diameter are known as PM-10. In comparison, a human hair is about 70 micrometers in diameter.
- Breathing particulate matter is linked to increased hospital emissions and emergency room visits for people with heart and lung disease, and to increased work and school absences.
- The elderly, children and people with chronic lung disease, such as asthma, are especially sensitive to high levels of particulate matter.

Further Information

- The published finding and additional information regarding this action can be found on our website at: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/air>.
- For more information, please call Colleen McKaughan, Associate Director, Air Division, U.S. EPA Region 9 at (520) 498-0118 or Frances Wicher, Air Quality Planner, Air Division, U.S. EPA Region 9 at (415) 947-4155.